

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image forming section having a developer storage space ~~into which developer is stored;~~ delimited by the space adapted to be displaced by stored developer; and
an ejection unit that ejects therefrom a recording medium on which an image has been formed by the image forming section, wherein
the ejection unit owns an inclination portion which has a lower end and an upper end, while being obliquely formed,
at least a portion of the developer storage space of the image forming section is arranged in an area which is surrounded by the inclination portion, a horizontal plane extended from the lower end of the inclination portion, and a vertical plane extended from the upper end of the inclination portion,
the developer storage space owns a first developer storage portion arranged at an upper portion thereof, and a second developer storage portion arranged at a lower portion thereof, while sandwiching therebetween a horizontal line which is extended from a latent image forming position of the image carrier by the optical writing apparatus along a horizontal direction, and
the first developer storage portion is connected to the second developer storage portion.
2. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image forming section having a developer storage space ~~into which developer is stored;~~ delimited by the space adapted to be displaced by stored developer; and

an ejection unit that ejects therefrom a recording medium on which an image is formed by the image forming section, wherein

the ejection unit owns an inclination portion which is obliquely formed, at least a portion of a wall surface ~~which surrounds~~ defining the developer storage space extends along the inclination portion,

the developer storage space owns a first developer storage portion arranged at an upper portion thereof, and a second developer storage portion arranged at a lower portion thereof, while sandwiching therebetween a horizontal line which is extended from a latent image forming position of the image carrier by the optical writing apparatus along a horizontal direction, and

the first developer storage portion is connected to the second developer storage portion.

3. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the image forming section includes an image carrier, an optical writing apparatus for forming a latent image on the image carrier, and a developing apparatus containing the developer storage space, for developing the latent image of the image carrier so as to produce a visible image.

4. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a developer storage capacity of the first developer storage portion is larger than that of the second developer storage portion.

5. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the optical writing apparatus is constituted by a laser exposing apparatus, and is arranged at a position which is extended from the latent image forming position of the image carrier to the horizontal direction.

6. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image forming section includes a process cartridge which includes an image carrier on which a latent image is formed, and a developing unit containing the developer storage, for developing the latent image of the image carrier so as to produce a visible image.

7. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the inclination portion can be freely opened/closed, and the process cartridge can be detachably mounted via an opening portion which is formed when the inclination portion is opened.

8. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising:

a paper supplying apparatus having a supply unit for supplying the recording medium;

a transfer apparatus provided opposite to the image carrier of the process cartridge;

a fixing apparatus arranged on the down-stream side of the transfer apparatus; and

a transport path that transports the recording medium supplied from the supply unit of the paper supplying apparatus between the image carrier and the transfer apparatus, and for ejecting the recording medium via the fixing apparatus to the ejection unit, wherein a portion of the transport path defined from the supply unit of the paper supply apparatus up to the fixing apparatus is formed along a substantially vertical direction.

9. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the inclination portion of the ejection unit has the lower end in the vicinity of
an exit port from which the recording medium is ejected, and is heightened toward the upper
end of the inclination portion.
10. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
a grip portion is provided on the wall surface which surrounds the developer
storage space.
11. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein
the grip portion is formed in such a manner that the grip portion is entered into
an inner side of a wall surface of the grip portion.
12. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
a flow path that causes air to pass therethrough is formed between the ejection
portion and the wall surface.
13. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein
the flow path is constructed of a rib which is formed on at least one of the
ejection unit and the wall surface.
14. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein
the rib is formed along an ejection direction of the recording medium which is
ejected to the ejection unit.
15. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge used in an image forming apparatus
containing an ejection unit having an inclination portion which is obliquely formed in order to
eject therefrom a recording medium comprising:
a developer storage space ~~that stores therein developer, delimited by the~~
space adapted to be displaced by stored developer, wherein

at least a portion of the developer storage space is arranged in a space which is surrounded by the inclination portion, a horizontal plane extended from a lower end of the inclination portion, and ~~also,~~ a vertical plane extended from an upper end of the inclination portion,

the developer storage space owns a first developer storage portion arranged at an upper portion thereof, and a second developer storage portion arranged at a lower portion thereof, while sandwiching therebetween a horizontal line which is extended from a latent image forming position of the image carrier by the optical writing apparatus along a horizontal direction, and

the first developer storage portion is connected to the second developer storage portion.

16. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge used in an image forming apparatus containing an ejection unit having an inclination portion which is obliquely formed in order to eject therefrom a recording medium comprising:

a developer storage space ~~that stores therein developer,~~ delimited by the space adapted to be displaced by stored developer, wherein

at least a portion of a wall surface ~~which surrounds~~ defining the developer storage space extends along the inclination portion,

the developer storage space owns a first developer storage portion arranged at an upper portion thereof, and a second developer storage portion arranged at a lower portion thereof, while sandwiching therebetween a horizontal line which is extended from a latent image forming position of the image carrier by the optical writing apparatus along a horizontal direction, and

the first developer storage portion is connected to the second developer storage portion.

17. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a latent image forming unit that forms a latent image on an image carrying
~~body; and body;~~

a developing unit that visualizes the latent image formed on the image carrying
body by using a ~~developer;~~ developer;

a discharge tray for accommodating discharged sheets, disposed above the
developer replenishment box;

wherein a developing housing containing the developer is communicatively
connected to a developer replenishment ~~box;~~ and box;

wherein the developer replenishment box is ~~disposed in an~~ disposed upstream
of a latent image writing position on the image carrying body, and an upper portion of the
developer replenishment box is substantially higher than an upper portion of the image
carrying ~~body; and~~ body.

wherein an upper surface of the developer replenishment box is an inclined
surface such that the upper surface is parallel in cross-section to an inclined portion of the
discharge tray, accommodating the recording sheets, when the developer replenishment box is
in an inserted state; and

a waste developer recovering box integrally attached to the developer
replenishment box.

18. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 17, further
comprising a process cartridge detachably attached to the apparatus body, the process
cartridge into which the image carrying body and at least one process unit are incorporated,

wherein the process cartridge includes the developer replenishment box.

19. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the
developer replenishment box is detachably attached to the process cartridge.

20. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 18, wherein an image carrying body cartridge including at least the image carrying body is detachably attached to the process cartridge.

21. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the process cartridge is attached to and detached from the apparatus body by opening an opening/closing cover provided in an upper part of the apparatus body.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 17,
wherein a recording sheet onto which a visual image is transferred from the image carrying body is transported from a lower part to an upper part; and
wherein the developer replenishment box is disposed on an upper side of the latent image writing position on the image carrying body.

24. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a discharge tray for accommodating discharged sheets, disposed in an upper part of the developer replenishment box.

25. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 24, wherein an upper surface housing of the developer replenishment box is an inclined surface inclined in the same direction as of the discharge tray accommodating the recording sheets.

26. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the developer replenishment box is capable of containing a larger amount of developer than the developing housing disposed in a lower side of the latent image writing position on the image carrying body.

27. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 23,
wherein the developer replenishment box is disposed in an upper part of a latent image writing position on the image carrying body;

wherein the developing housing is disposed in a lower part of the latent image writing position; and

wherein the developer replenishment box is communicatively connected to the developing housing by way of a communicative passage, which makes a detour around the latent image writing position.

28. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a latent image forming unit that forms a latent image on an image carrying body;
a developing unit that visualizes the latent image formed on the image carrying body by using a developer; and

the image carrying body temporarily holds the visual image formed on the image carrying body and transferring the visual image onto a recording sheet,

wherein the recording sheet is transported from ~~a lower part to an upper part;~~
below to above the image carrying body;

wherein a developing housing containing the developer is communicatively connected to a developer replenishment box; and

wherein the developing housing and the developer replenishment box are disposed ~~in an upper part of~~ above a latent image writing position on the image carrying body.

29. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge used in an image forming apparatus containing an ejection unit having an inclination portion which is obliquely formed in order to eject therefrom a recording medium, the process cartridge comprising:

an image carrying body;

at least one process unit ~~having an inclination portion obliquely formed in order to eject~~ for ejecting therefrom a recording medium; and

a developer replenishment box,

wherein the developer replenishment box is communicatively connected to a developing housing,

the developer replenishment box is disposed vertically above a latent image writing position on the image carrying body, and

the process cartridge is configured such that, when the process cartridge is in an inserted state, at least a portion of the developer replenishment box is arranged in an area which is surrounded by the inclination portion, a horizontal plane extended from the lower end of the inclination portion, and a vertical plane extended from the upper end of the inclination portion.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the developing housing is disposed in a lower part of the latent image writing position.